



RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 11, 2021
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Mike Lefor, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Representatives Mike Lefor, Rick Becker, Joshua A. Boschee, Jason Dockter, Scott Louser, Austen Schauer, Vicky Steiner, Greg Stemen; Senators Howard C. Anderson, Jr., Karen K. Krebsbach, Tim Mathern, Kristin Roers*, Shawn Vedaa*

Member absent: Senator Doug Larsen

Others present: See [Appendix A](#)

**Attended remotely*

Chairman Lefor reviewed the study charge and stated he will strive to include stakeholders as the committee moves forward in conducting its study charge.

Chairman Lefor called on Ms. Jennifer S. N. Clark, Senior Counsel, Legislative Council, to review the [Supplementary Rules of Operation and Procedure of the North Dakota Legislative Management](#).

Chairman Lefor called on Mr. Chris J. Kadrmas, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, to review a background memorandum entitled [Retirement Committee - Statutory Duties and Responsibilities for the 2021-22 Interim](#).

Chairman Lefor called on Mr. Luke Martel, Director of Employment, Labor, and Retirement Program, National Conference of State Legislatures, for a presentation ([Appendix B](#)) regarding alternatives to traditional defined benefits plans.

Mr. Martel indicated he will provide the additional information requested by the committee.

Ms. Clark and Mr. Kadrmas will provide the committee with additional information regarding the employee contribution the state provided in lieu of a salary increase in the 1980s.

Chairman Lefor called on Mr. Scott Miller, Executive Director, Public Employees Retirement System, for a presentation ([Appendix C](#)) regarding the estimated unfunded liability of the main retirement plan, issues related to the impact of closing the defined benefit plan, and the possible impacts of separating political subdivisions from state employees.

Mr. Miller indicated he will provide the additional information requested by the committee.

Chairman Lefor called on Mr. Terry Traynor, Executive Director, North Dakota Association of Counties, for testimony ([Appendix D](#)) regarding issues related to closing the defined benefit plan to new hires and the impact of separating the political subdivision employees from state employees.

Chairman Lefor called on Mr. Blake Crosby, Executive Director, North Dakota League of Cities, for testimony ([Appendix E](#)) regarding issues related to closing the defined benefit plan to new hires and the impact of separating the political subdivision employees from state employees.

Chairman Lefor called on Mr. Nick Archuleta, President, North Dakota United, for comments regarding the committee's study charge. Mr. Archuleta noted as beneficiaries of the state retirement plan, state employees are stakeholders. He provided to the committee the National Public Pension Coalition's 2021 document *Fiscal Responsibility and 401(k)s: Why Converting Public Employees to Defined-Contribution Retirement Plans is Wrong For Your State* ([Appendix F](#)).

The committee discussed the committee's study charge.

Chairman Lefor noted he will request the approval of the Chairman of the Legislative Management to contract with a third-party consultant to assist with the committee's study. If funding for the consultant is approved, he indicated he will prepare a draft request for proposal and may schedule a brief committee meeting to receive the committee's input. In addition to this possible brief meeting, he noted he will tentatively schedule a meeting for Thursday, October 28, 2021.

No further business appearing, Chairman Lefor adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Jennifer S. N. Clark
Senior Counsel

Chris J. Kadrmas
Senior Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:6